

prevent epilepsy would be so large, time-consuming, and costly that at present there does not seem to be any prospect of it being done. The book ends with a bibliography listing 687 articles about febrile convulsions.

This is the most up-to-date survey currently available of the problems presented by febrile convulsions and it should be read by all doctors who care for children with this disease although, since an attempt is made to present each side of every argument, they will find both wheat and chaff in close approximation and will need to be able to distinguish between them.

D P ADDY

An Introduction to Paediatric Neurology.

By G Hosking. (Pp. 252 incl. index; illustrated+tables. £11.50 hardback, £5.95 paperback.) Faber & Faber: London. 1982.

This welcome little book is written for nurses, therapists, social workers, and teachers; it is perhaps too much of a potted medical text to be ideal. Although it covers the field adequately, describes the right disorders, and has good diagrams and a glossary, there is little advice on what a therapist can do to help far less a teacher: and the balance sometimes seems wrong; surely status epilepticus or reading retardation needs more space than myotubular myopathy or the Lesch Nyhan syndrome? Most of all I missed the principles of the subject; without some feeling for the interplay of brain development and pathology it would be hard either to learn the facts set out here or to put them into practice. I felt at times that distillation not desiccation might have been the better way to reduce such a fine bunch of grapes to its essentials, but the raisins are wholesome enough and I hope it is a success.

DAVID GARDNER-MEDWIN

Paediatrics. By N D Barnes and N R C Robertson. (Pp. 130 incl. index; illustrated+tables. £14.95 hardback.) Update Publications: London. 1981.

This new book by two Cambridge paediatricians deals with certain aspects of children's illness encountered by doctors engaged in primary care and is a compendium of articles which originally appeared in the magazine *Update*, now

revised and expanded. The subjects covered are some of the more important ones encountered in the community such as growth, immunisation, infant feeding, and the common childhood infections.

There are chapters on organ diseases—such as those of the gut, kidneys, and pancreas. The common enough problem of convulsions is dealt with concisely with the differential diagnoses of faints and 'funny turns'. All general practitioners are faced with the problems of child abuse or neglect; these too are included together with some of the acute problems which come their way. There is no attempt to make this a complete textbook of paediatrics; so many of the diseases encountered in the hospital receive no mention, and there is little about handicap, cerebral palsy, mental retardation, or squints. The far less common condition of cystic fibrosis has three pages, perhaps because the problems of this illness are so extensive. Respiratory tract problems are well covered but exanthemata are only mentioned in passing in the chapter on immunisation. The common problems of sleep, not eating, or the converse over-eating are briefly dealt with and school problems also are given a place.

There is bound to be a lack of balance in a book which is a collection of articles, and some important problems such as those of the skin and bones are omitted. One of the very attractive features is the succinct list of references and further reading at the end of every chapter; these have been carefully chosen. The book is beautifully produced and illustrated, and there are many excellent coloured photographs and charts, tables, flow diagrams, and radiographs. The style is bold and didactic, which makes for easy reading, thus making it an engaging introduction to paediatrics for the medical student, but those wanting a textbook of paediatrics will either look elsewhere or supplement their reading. Nevertheless, the attractive presentation is likely to guarantee a good readership.

O P GRAY

Scientific Foundations of Paediatrics, second edition. Edited by J A Davis and J Dobbing. (Pp. 1095 incl. index; illustrated+tables. £75.00 hardback.) Heinemann Medical: London. 1981.

This edition of an important book is a worthy successor to the first one. In no sense is this a textbook of clinical

paediatrics; as the authors hoped it is a composite of the scientific background concerned with the essential distinguishing characteristic of the medicine of childhood, and its concern with growth and development. It has been extensively revised with the addition of further contributors. There are now five sections, the important change being that growth and development of behaviour and personality has been given a section of its own, separating it from the section on growth and development of physical systems and giving this important subject a more thorough treatment. Thus the book as a whole achieves a very satisfactory presentation of very varied aspects of the studies in paediatric medicine in a single volume, and has very extensive reference lists making it a worthy, if not outstanding, part of the Scientific Foundations series.

It is impossible to comment on the complete content of this book; some chapters make very heavy reading indeed, but the important essay on the 'Beginnings and fruition of the self' is very informative and a joy to read. The editors have ensured good use of diagrams and illustrations, and they are to be congratulated on their choice of excellent contributors; it is beautifully printed. This is an essential reference book for every paediatric department and medical library.

J W SCOPES

Textbook of Gastroenterology and Nutrition in Infancy. In two volumes. Edited by E Lebenthal. (Pp. Vol. 1, 699 including index; Vol. 2, 483 including index; illustrated+tables. 2 volume set \$133.28 hardback. Raven Press: New York. 1981.

One of the exciting and important areas of scientific interest during the last decade has been our increasing understanding of the interdependence of gastrointestinal development and function upon nutrition. This is of particular concern to all who work with the young, and is a field in which paediatricians have made significant contributions. This has been acknowledged in several ways, not least of which is this considerable work by one hundred authors, most of them from North America.

As stated in the preface the books are intended for all who care for infants in the perinatal period. They aim to provide an overview of the rapidly expanding interface of knowledge which links infant nutrition with development and disease of

the gastrointestinal tract and to outline some current trends for future research.

Volume 1 discusses physiological and biochemical processes concerned with intrauterine nutrition and growth in relation to morphological and functional development of the gastrointestinal tract. Various contributions encompass overall intrauterine development, as well as chapters on development of sucking and swallowing, gastric function, bowel motility, exocrine pancreatic function, the enterohepatic circulation, immunological defences, and the effects of human milk and other formulae upon their maturation. Also considered are nutritional requirements in early life, aspects of nutrition with breast milk, proteins, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins, electrolytes, and trace elements. Particularly good contributions concern the oral lipases and lipid digestion in newborns as well as polyunsaturated fatty acid metabolism, prostaglandins, and

thromboxane in perinatal medicine; the two last chapters by Zvi Friedman have more than 600 references. It is disappointing that space could not have been found for the recent work on gastrointestinal hormone release in newborns that is proving so fascinating.

Volume 2 deals with the adverse effects of current nutritional methods and the special requirements of infants with various gastrointestinal disorders, including the extra nutritional demands imposed by surgery in early life. Some sections tend to be mundane and contain little that cannot readily be found in existing reviews or monographs; this is perhaps more true of the chapters concerned specifically with gastrointestinal disorders in infancy. Nevertheless, the volume contains clear and comprehensive reviews on a broad range of other topics—such as hepatic complications of parenteral nutrition, cows' milk allergy, and the relation-

ship of malnutrition to digestive and absorptive function in infants and its effects on immunological development.

Many may appreciate the way in which the contents of some chapters tend to overlap those of others. Indeed the two volumes are intended to be read in parallel, one complementing the other, as the work of the neonatologist or paediatric surgeon does that of the developmental biologist.

The books are well produced and clearly and appropriately illustrated, although the few photomicrographs of jejunal histology could have been improved. These volumes should be an automatic choice for the libraries of larger institutions which care for newborns or infants and for various university departments. The cost will limit individual purchases although at the cost of less than a farthing a page it is remarkably good value.

JOHN GLASGOW

Shorter notices

Current Pediatric Therapy 10, tenth edition. Edited by S S Gellis and B M Kagan. (Pp. 776 including index; tables. £39.25 hardback.) Saunders: Eastbourne. 1982.

This has the same format as the previous volumes. More than 300 authors have contributed brief sections to create a comprehensive catalogue of disorders which are grouped together in 24 sections (most of them based on a body system). References to the source of the information are not given. Ease of use is ensured by the long and detailed index.

Evaluation of transcutaneous oxygen monitors. Health Equipment Information No 97. (Pp. 35; illustrated + tables. £3.00 paperback.) DHSS: London. 1981.

A comparison of five transcutaneous oxygen monitors, including technical assessment and comments from hospital users. The report is free to those working in the NHS and may be obtained from the health authority administrator. Although this is a most valuable compilation for those about to buy the equipment something closer to the *Which?* format would have made the comparative information easier to assimilate.

Handbook of Behavioral Pediatrics. By R W Block and F Rash. (Pp. 256; illustrated + tables. £10.75 paperback.) Year Book Medical Publishers: Chicago. 1981.

This small pocket book contains a series of brief sections giving sensible guidance on the management of common behavioural problems. Each section is supplemented by a few references for further reading. The UK price for such a small booklet seems exorbitant.

Postoperative Pediatric Uroradiology. By R L Lebowitz. (Pp. 207 incl. index; illustrated. £30.80 hardback.) Prentice Hall: Hemel Hempstead. 1982.

This book is a concise and practical account of operations on the child's urinary tract, their complications, and postoperative radiological management and findings using intravenous urography in particular. Its reference and text are clinically based so that it serves uniquely as reading or reference for paediatricians, paediatric surgeons, and radiologists who need to follow the results of surgery in urinary tract infection, neurogenic bladders, and congenital abnormalities.

Paediatric Handbook. Edited by D C Geddiss. (Pp. 159 incl. index; illustrated + tables. £5.50 paperback.) Heinemann Medical: London. 1982.

This is not intended to be a textbook; it is a practical guide, mainly for junior hospital doctors, emphasising management of the acute paediatric problems once the diagnosis is made. There is a useful brief chapter on poisoning, and the inclusion of growth charts and a short guide to developmental assessment is welcome. It is well indexed and includes a comprehensive pharmacopoeia.

Paediatric Urology, second edition. Edited by D Innes Williams and J H Johnston. (Pp. 564 incl. index; illustrated + tables. £45.00 hardback.) Butterworth: London. 1982.

The founder-editor has co-operated with J H Johnston to produce this long overdue edition of a splendid book; the presentation and organisation of subjects is as strong as in the first edition. This has been enhanced by the contributions of a number of specialists in allied subjects to give fuller coverage of the medical, pathological, and radiological aspects. Paediatricians should advise their hospital libraries to buy a copy.